

Dr. A. R. Menon (*Minister for Rural Development*): Yes.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni (*Trichur-South*): What will be the amount that is spent on that account?

Dr. A. R. Menon (*Minister for Rural Development*): Rs. 10,000

Mr. A. Eachara Menon (*Chittur-Rural*): Is it the considered opinion of the Government that no Government Ayurvedic wing be given to Chittur?

Dr. A. R. Menon (*Minister for Rural Development*): I think it is the duty of the Chittur Municipal Council to undertake this work and after they take it up, if they apply to Government for some grant, Government will be willing to give them some help. But the primary duty to give medical relief rests upon the Municipality.

Mr. A. Eachara Menon (*Chittur-Rural*): If the Municipality starts an Ayurvedic Hospital and if they request the Government for aid, would they give it?

Dr. A. R. Menon (*Minister for Rural Development*): Certainly it will be considered. We will try to render them all help.

PRESIDENTS OF TOWN COUNCILS—NOMINATIONS— PROCEDURE REGARDING

152. Mr. C. V. Iyyu (*Kunnamkulam*): Will Government be pleased to inform.—

- (a) whether the Presidents of Town Councils were elected or nominated;
- (b) whether any kind of election was conducted by the Minister for Rural Development in connection with the appointment or nomination of the Presidents of Town Councils; and if so,
- (c) what is the procedure adopted in the election;
- (d) whether it was possible for the Minister from the election conducted by him to understand the names of members who voted for particular candidates?

Dr. A. R. Menon (*Minister for Rural Development*):

(a) Nominated.

(b) No; but since representations were received from councillors requesting to nominate particular candidates, it was decided to make the appointment after ascertaining the views of the members. Accordingly, the members were consulted before the nomination.

(c) Every member wishing to express his opinion was requested to note the name of the candidate for whom he would have voted if there was an election.

(d) No.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu (*Kunnamkulam*): Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to give the number of votes secured by the candidates for nomination in each case?

Dr. A. R. Menon (*Minister for Rural Development*): The majority view was taken into consideration for the purpose of nomination. If necessary, I shall hand over the list to you. It is in my desk and if you cannot believe my statement you may come and see it. It is sealed.

Mr. V. K. Krishnankutty (*Ezhuvas-Trichur*): May I know whether the principle of secret voting was adopted?

Dr. A. R. Menon (*Minister for Rural Development*): Yes.

Mr. A. L. Antony (*Irinjalakkuda*): If the principle of secret voting is adopted, then what is the objection to election?

Dr. A. R. Menon (*Minister for Rural Development*): There is objection because according to the Act only nomination can be resorted to for the first time. I wanted to give effect to the principle of election without violating the rules of nomination.

Mr. A. L. Antony (*Irinjalakkuda*): Will this practice be resorted to on all occasions?

Dr. A. R. Menon (*Minister for Rural Development*): Only at the first instance. The Act lays down: "The Government shall nominate members for the first Council and they may elect....."

Mr. C. V. Iyyu (*Kunnamkulam*): May I know, Sir, whether there was not another candidate at Kunnamkulam who got an equal number of votes as in the case of the candidate who is already nominated President there?

Dr. A. R. Menon (*Minister for Rural Development*): Because those candidates put in a stamped petition preferring his claims. That is my information.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu (*Kunnamkulam*): There was another candidate also who got an equal number of votes as the candidate who was nominated. That is my information.

Dr. A. R. Menon (*Minister for Rural Development*): Your information is wrong.

Mr. T. V. Subramania Ayyar (*Nemmara*): May I know, Sir, whether all the members of the Nemmara Council voted for the present candidate?

Dr. A. R. Menon (*Minister for Rural Development*): Four of them did not vote. The rest voted unanimously for Mr. Viswanathan Chettiar and he was nominated there. They said they cannot vote, because they were not given previous information and that they wanted to consult to record their vote. I do not know whom to consult to record a vote. (*Laughter*).

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar (*Cheruthuruthi*): Is there any power given to the Minister to compel them to vote for a particular candidate?

Dr. A. R. Menon (*Minister for Rural Development*): No, Sir. Let me explain. From my bitter experience in this Council I thought the best course would be to ascertain the views of the members themselves before nomination is made.

Mr. President: Now you find that even that is not a protection. (*Laughter*).

Mr. C. V. Iyyu (*Kunnamkulam*): I was led to know that there were two candidates who got the same number of votes in Kunnamkulam and that the Minister nominated one of them. Here it is stated that the principle of election is followed.

Dr. A. R. Menon (*Minister for Rural Development*): As far as my information goes, you first supported him and then turned and supported the second candidate and a split was brought about.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu (*Kunnamkulam*): No. No. (*Laughter*).

HEALTH CENTRES—JURISDICTION OF

153. Mr. V. K. Bhaskara Menon (*Cranganur*): Will Government be pleased to state the respective areas of jurisdiction of the two Health Centres now existing?

Dr. A. R. Menon (*Minister for Rural Development*): There are no Health Centres now.

Mr. V. K. Bhaskara Menon (*Cranganur*): May I know, Sir, when the Health Centres at Irinjalakkuda and Trippunittura were abolished? My information is that even now they are working.

Dr. A. R. Menon (*Minister for Rural Development*): The buildings are there. But no activities of Health Centres are carried on there.

Mr. V. K. Bhaskara Menon (*Cranganur*): I do not find from the gazette when these were abolished.